

FAO Commerce Committee,

I am writing to urge you to vote NO on HB 5263 and I am writing from the United Kingdom. It is highly likely that if the USA starts down this road, there will be similar horrors allowed over here. I beg you to show leadership and compassion.

Today, we are waking up in a world of new brutality and disrespect for human life here in Europe. I am not going to say that a rabbit's and a human's life are the same but I will say that every small action that elevates humanity above cruelty to any living being is an act of defiance in the face of this impending age of inhumanity. Stay humane and do not inflict unnecessary suffering anywhere, to anyone, to anything! Every religion on this Earth insists upon that - as a Christian country, I ask you to consider this first.

On rabbits:

Rabbits are complex individuals who deserve so much more than to be used in this way. They are naturally fearful animals who do not cope well in a farming environment.

Rabbits are, shockingly, exempt from the Humane Slaughter Act 85-765. Among other things, this means rabbits may be fully conscious while being slaughtered. They do not need to be stunned before slaughter and an inspector is not required to be present, leaving them vulnerable to the worst kind of abuse with no requirement for documentation or supervision.

Rabbit farms will be a breeding ground for disease, with so many animals packed into one space. The highly contagious Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease will thrive in such conditions, and this could lead to the decimation of wild and domestic rabbits in the area.

There is very little demand for rabbit meat, most people are repulsed at the thought of consuming the third most popular household pet. People are in fact choosing to avoid animal products altogether in record numbers. Whole Foods and other specialty stores have long stopped selling rabbit meat after concluding there was no market for sales.

There is simply no need for such a backwards step to allow intensive rabbit farming and slaughter in this day and age.

With deepest respect

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